

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 12249 101454Z

71

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /054 W

----- 077920

R 101340Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1982

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 12249

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ET

SUBJ: PMAC REORGANIZATION RUMORS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 12105

SUMMARY: RUMORS OF PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) REORGANIZATION HAVE INTENSIFIED WITHIN PAST FEW DAYS AND IT APPEARS THAT FINAL DECISION ON MEMBERSHIP OF NEW GOVERNING COUNCIL WILL BE MADE SOON. RELIABLE SOURCES OFFER CONFLICTING PREDICTIONS ON LTCOL MENGISTU HAILE-MARIAN AND LTCOL ATNAFU ABATE, BOTH OF WHOM SPECULATED TO BE MANEUVERING FOR LARGEST MEASURE OF AUTHORITY WITHIN NEW "SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL" (SMC). SIZE OF SUPREME COUNCIL LIKELY TO BE BETWEEN 15 AND 20 WITH LOWER FIGURE MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED. FUTURE OF OTHER CURRENT MEMBERS OF PMAC UNCERTAIN BUT THERE SPECULATION SOME WILL BECOME PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATORS. ADDIS COMMUNITY INTENSELY ENGAGED IN GUESSING GAME ABOUT PERSONALITIES ON NEW COUNCIL. END SUMMARY

1. WELL-PLACED SOURCE WITH ACCESS TO PMAC MEMBERS STATED PLAN TO REORGANIZE PMAC AND ITS FUTURE COMPOSITION WAS COMPLETED SOME 10 DAYS AGO, BUT BECAUSE OF DISSIDENT REPORT COMPILING COMPLAINTS AGAINST PMAC AND 1ST VICE CHAIRMAN, LTCOL MENGISTU, FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN POSTPONED OVER COMPOSITION OF NEW SMC. GROUP OF 16 MEN ALLEGED TO HAVE WRITTEN CRITICAL REPORT SUPPOSEDLY LED BY PMAC MEMBER LT. MELAKU TEFERRA. THIS OPPOSITION NOW APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN OVERCOME.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 12249 101454Z

2. RELIABLE SOURCES HAVE REPORTED NEW MILITARY COUNCIL WILL

BE BETWEEN 15 AND 20 MEMBERS. MOST PERSISTENT FIGURE IS 17 WITH MENGISTU AND ATNAFU AS 16TH AND 17TH MEMBERS. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT TEFERI BANTE WILL REMAIN AS CHAIRMAN, WITH NO MORE AUTHORITY THAN HE EXERCISES AT PRESENT. IT UNLIKELY ANY CIVILIANS WILL BE INCLUDED IN SMC. SOURCES DIFFER ON LEADER OF SMC WITH ONE STORY HAVING ATNAFU HOLDING DEFENSE AND PUBLIC SECURITY PORTFOLIOS AND IN TOP POSITION. THIS VERSION WOULD HAVE MENGISTU AS KIND OF SUPER MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR CIVILIAN MINISTRIES. ALTERNATE VERSION HAS ROLES OF MENGISTU AND ATNAFU REVERSED. AT PRESENT WE CANNOT DETERMINE VALIDITY OF EITHER.

3. PRESENT PMAC MEMBERS RUMORED TO BE ON SMC INCLUDE LTCOL ASRAT DESTA, LTCOL ATNAFU ABATE, MAJ BERHANU BAYEH, LT ALEMAYEHU HAILE, MAJ DEMESSIE DERESSA, MAJ FISSEHA DESTA, LTCOL MENGISTU HAILE-MARIAN, CAPT MOGES WOLDE-MIKAEL, BG TEFERI BANTE, LTCOL TESHAYE GEBRE-KIDAN, AND LTCOL HIRUYE HAILE-SELASSIE, WHO WOULD REPLACE LTCOL TEKA TULU AS CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC SECURITY, ALTHOUGH LTCOL TEKA WILL REPORTEDLY REMAIN DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF SECURITY AND MEMBER OF SMC. (HE ALSO IS SAID TO WANT TO GO TO BULGARIA TO STUDY FOR 9 MONTHS). ALL THESE MEN HAVE BEEN PROMINENT FIGURES WITHIN PMAC. RELIABLE SOURCES REPORT REPLACEMENT OF LTCOL TEKA TULU HAS ALREADY OCCURRED. THEY SAY HIS CONDUCT OF SECURITY MATTERS AND HIS GALLA ORIGINAS HAD BEEN SOURCE DEEP RESENTMENT AMONG NON-GALLA ELEMENTS OF PMAC. LTCOL HIRUYE, A TIGRE, IS INOFFENSIVE AND RELATIVELY POWERLESS AND THEREFORE ACCEPTABLE TO PMAC CONSENSUS.

4. CONSOLIDATION OF PMAC APPEARS TO REFLECT MORE BUREAUCRATIC CONSIDERATIONS THAN POLITICAL ONES. FACT PRESENT PMAC LEADERSHIP LIKELY TO BECOME NEW SMC SUPPORTS THIS THEORY. PAST SPECULATION GOVT REORGANIZATION WOULD INCLUDE CIVILIANS AS CONCESSION TO RECENT CRITICISM APPEARS TO BE DEAD ISSUE. IF MENGISTU EMERGES AS HEAD OF SMC IT WILL BE VICTORY FOR HIS SUPPORTERS AGAINST ALLEGEDLY MORE "MODERATE" FORCES WITHIN PMAC. WHETHER PMAC WILL MAKE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF REORGANIZATION IS UNKNOWN. ONE RUMOR IS THAT THEY WILL, AND THAT IT MAY COME THIS WEEKEND.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 12249 101454Z

TIENKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REORGANIZATIONS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS12249
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760457-0428
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761251/aaaabsgh.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ADDIS ABABA 12105
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PMAC REORGANIZATION RUMORS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ET, (ATNAFU ABATE), (MENGISTU HAILE-MARIAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006